
CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
JANUARY 14, 2013 MEETING

STAFF REPORT

TO: BOARD OF MANAGERS
FROM: MICHAEL YOUNES, DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS 
CC: SHANA DAVIS-COOK, VILLAGE MANAGER
DATE: 1/8/2013
SUBJECT: VILLAGE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES – RIGHT-OF-WAY MOWING

At the October 8, 2012 Board of Managers meeting, staff circulated a memo (Att. 1), at the Board's request, outlining the background, procedures and cost of the Village program for mowing the rights-of-way located between the sidewalk and curb ('green strip').

At the meeting, some Board members voiced concern that in some cases where residents may not have any grass on their property due to other forms of landscaping, these residents may not presently have a lawn service or the equipment to mow the portion of right-of-way in front of their home. Also, in areas where there was a large area of right-of-way, such as along the double sidewalks on Connecticut Avenue.

Board members also stated that they had received questions from residents inquiring 'why the Village mows these "green-strip" areas,' as it seems to be a waste of money and a duplication of effort.

The Board felt that there was sufficient merit to further investigate the elimination of the right-of-way mowing service by proposing the elimination of the right-of-way mowing service to the community, soliciting residents' comments and feedback for further Board consideration.

Resident Feedback

In order to solicit broad community feedback on the potential service elimination, articles were included in the December and January issues of the *Crier* (as cover articles), was featured on the homepage of the Village website and circulated in each week's blast e-mails since December 7. A copy of the article is attached to this staff report (Att. 2).

A total of **27 comments have been received** as of the date of this report, **20 in support and 7 opposed** to eliminating right-of-way mowing. Copies of the verbatim comments received are attached (Att. 3).

Costs

Currently, the Village's landscape maintenance contract is billed in three (3) different line items: (1) Parks and Greenspaces; (2) the Buffer; and (3) Rights-of-Way. Below is a breakdown of the costs per line item.

	Cost (per year)
Parks and Greenspaces ¹	\$9,321.60
Buffer	\$7,457.36
Rights-of-Way	\$17,760.32
Total	\$34,539.28

As outlined in the table above, the cost of mowing the rights-of-way is approximately 52% of the overall total value of the landscape maintenance contract.

At the October meeting, Board members questioned the exact savings if right-of-way mowing was eliminated for all areas with the exception of Connecticut Avenue; accordingly the Village contractor's provided a quote of \$3,251.04 per year to maintain mowing service along Connecticut Avenue, resulting in an overall savings of \$14,509.28 per year.

Options for Board Consideration

In response to the Board's October discussion, I have outlined the following three (3) options for consideration:

1. Eliminate right-of-way mowing throughout the entire Village: Eliminating right-of-way mowing throughout the entire Village would save a total of \$17,760.32 per year.

If approved, in order to adequately notify all affected residents I would recommend direct notifications to residents in the affected areas of the approved change in addition to circulating the information via the *Crier*, website and blast e-mail.

2. Eliminate right-of-way mowing throughout the entire Village with the exception of Connecticut Avenue: If the Board chooses this option, it would save a total of \$14,509.28 per year.

¹ Right-of-way ("green strip") areas that directly abut Village parks and greenspaces and the three (3) landscaped traffic islands/circles (Oxford Street, East Melrose Street and Kirkside Drive) are billed against the "parks and greenspaces" line item.

A precedent has already been set for exempting certain resident responsibilities along State rights-of-way. For example, residents are exempted from removing snow or ice within State rights-of-way (Connecticut Avenue and Brookville Road) due to the impact from State snow plows and traffic. A similar justification can be made for grass mowing because of the amount of traffic and width of the green strips in locations along Connecticut Avenue.

As with option number 1, I would recommend direct notifications to residents in the affected areas of the approved change in addition to circulating the information via the *Crier*, website and blast e-mail.

3. Maintain the full Village right-of-way mowing service.

Board Action Requested

Should the Board feel sufficient resident feedback has been received; staff requests the Board take a formal vote on how to proceed for the upcoming/future mowing seasons in order to provide direction to landscape contractor and for FY14 budget preparations.

If the Board approves the elimination of right-of-way mowing either throughout the Village or exempting State rights-of-way, the Board should consider amending Section 10 of the Village Code "Health and Sanitation" to codify the new requirement that the abutting resident/owner/occupant maintain the adjacent right-of-way. Suggested new section language is as follows:

Section 10-17. Maximum height of grass and weeds.

- (a) *"Every person who owns, occupies or controls any lot fronting or abutting a public right-of-way, [except a public right-of-way that is within the Connecticut Avenue state highway right-of-way,] whether as an owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise, shall cut/mow, or cause to be cut and mowed, all non-ornamental grass and weeds from so much of such public right-of-way as is in front of or abuts on such lot or parcel of land, in compliance with Section 10-17(b)."*
- (b) *"No resident shall permit or allow any non-ornamental grass or weeds to grow on any land owned, ~~or~~ occupied or maintained by the resident to a height in excess of ten (10) inches above the ground."*

Attachments

1. Staff report from October 8, 2012 Board of Managers meeting, including attachments
2. Copy of resident feedback request article
3. Resident feedback e-mails received

Attachment 1

Staff report from October 8, 2012 Board of Managers meeting, including attachments

Memo

To: Board of Managers
From: Michael Younes, Director of Municipal Operations *MY*
CC: Shana Davis-Cook, Village Manager
Date: 10/3/2012
Re: Village Landscape Maintenance Services – Right-of-way Mowing

In February, when the current landscape maintenance service contract was approved there was continued discussion amongst Board members as to whether the Village should continue to mow the strip of grass located in the right-of-way between the street and sidewalk (green strip) (on streets where sidewalks currently exist). At that time, several Board members stated that since the Village requires residents to clear snow/ice from the sidewalk(s) abutting their property, maintenance of the green strip did not appear to be any less the abutting resident's responsibility. Other Board members expressed concern that this may create a further burden on residents that might otherwise not have the ability or means to have the area mowed on a regular basis. The Board agreed to review the mowing policy at a later date to gauge the sense of the Board at the time and to determine if any further steps were warranted.

Background

In speaking with the Director of Public Works, the Village has mowed the green strip for over 30 years. Approximately 20 years ago, the Village's Public Works Department ceased all mowing operations in the Village parks and green strips when the Village began contracting this work out to allow for Public Works to focus its efforts on other tasks.

The Village's existing landscape maintenance contract (effective February 2012) stipulates that where there is a green strip it is to be mowed by the contractor and is classified as right-of-way for purposes of billing. Where there is no sidewalk and the grass extends all the way to the street the right-of-way is to be treated as part of the front lawn of the abutting homeowner. Accordingly, there is a total of 9.3 miles of green strip areas in front of a total of 477 homes (Att. 2) that are mowed as part of the Village's contract. The Village's contract does not include the green strip locations along Western Avenue; therefore those Village residents are currently responsible for maintaining the grass abutting that side of their property.

It is often observed that residents and/or their landscapers are also mowing the green strip in addition to the Village's contractors. At one point residents were asked to contact the office if they did not want the Village contractor to mow the grass strip in front of their house; however, it was logistically impossible to ensure that the mowing crew did not mow these areas, since the crew assignments often changed week to week. As a result we have directed the contractor to mow all green strip areas.

Surrounding Municipalities

I have spoken with staff at other neighboring municipalities, including the Village of Martin's Additions, Section 3, Section 5, the Towns of Chevy Chase and Somerset; all of whom have stated that the maintenance of the grass between the street and sidewalks in their municipalities is the responsibility of the abutting homeowner. All advised that this has either always been their policy or has been their policy for many years.

The Village of Martin's Additions has gone as far as codifying that the abutting owner is responsible for maintenance of the green strip. A copy of the code section is attached to this memorandum (Att. 1) for the Board's reference.

Costs

Currently, the Village's landscape maintenance contract is billed in three (3) different line items: (1) Parks and Greenspaces; (2) the Buffer; and (3) Rights-of-way. Below is a breakdown of the costs per line item.

	Cost (per year)
Parks and Greenspaces	\$9,321.60
Buffer	\$7,457.36
Rights-of-Way	\$17,760.32
Total	\$34,539.28

As outlined in the table above the cost of mowing the rights-of-way is approximately 52% of the overall total value of the landscape maintenance contract.

Board Action

At this time no formal Board action is requested or required. If the Board feels that further consideration is warranted, a public hearing could be held at the November 2012 Board meeting and advertisement of the hearing would be placed in the November issue of the *Crier* and on the weekly blasts.

Attachments:

- (1) Village of Martin's Addition Code Section; Maintenance of Public Right-of-Way
- (2) Map of Green Strips

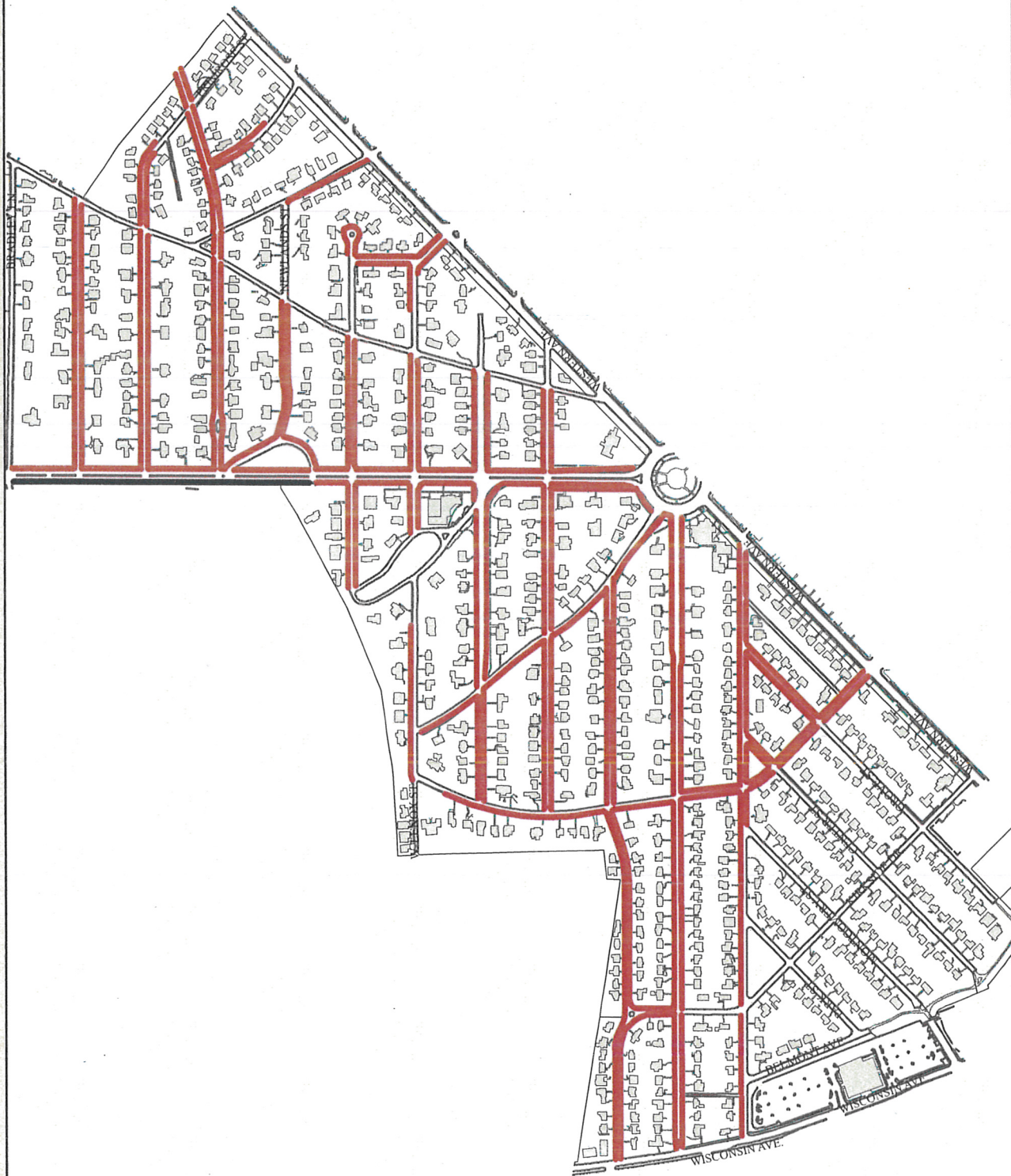
Attachment 1

Excerpt from Village of Martin's Additions code section regarding the maintenance of public right-of-ways

Section 7-209.

Maintenance of Public Right-of-Way

- (A) The owner of private property adjoining a public right-of-way shall maintain that portion of the right-of-way located between the private property line and the edge of the paved street in a safe and sanitary condition. Said owner shall not permit grass or weeds to grow within the right-of-way to a height in excess of twelve (12) inches above the ground. Nothing herein shall be deemed to require an owner of private property adjoining a right-of-way to repair sidewalks or curbs located within the right-of-way.
- (B) The owner of private property adjoining a public right-of-way shall not place any structure, wall, fence, tree, hedge, shrubbery, or any other plant growth, except low growing plantings, within the right-of-way without a license to use the right-of-way issued pursuant to Section 6-302. Any such tree, hedge, shrubbery, or other plant growth located within the right-of-way on December 9th, 2009 may be maintained, but not replaced, provided that it does not interfere in any manner with pedestrian or vehicular traffic and is maintained in such a manner and at such height that a clear and unobstructed view is available to pedestrians and vehicular traffic.
- (C) The owner of private property adjoining a public right-of-way shall not permit any structure, wall, fence, tree, hedge, shrubbery, or any other plant growth located on such owner's private property to extend into the right-of-way in such manner that interferes with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Any structure, wall, fence, tree, hedge, shrubbery, or any other plant growth located on private property adjoining a right-of-way shall be maintained in such a manner and at such height that a clear and unobstructed view of the right-of-way is available to pedestrians and vehicular traffic.
- (D) Any non-public structure, wall, fence, tree, hedge, shrubbery, or any other plant growth located within the public right-of-way in violation of any provision of this Section 7-209 shall be removed by and at the expense of the owner and occupant of the abutting private property upon the request of the Village Manager. The Village Manager may take such action as is necessary to return the right-of-way to a condition required by this Section. The cost of any corrective action may be specially assessed against the abutting private property and collected with the property taxes or collected by a suit for damages.
- (E) Any person who violates any provision of this Section 7-209 or allows a violation of any provision of this Section on his or her property, shall be guilty of a municipal infraction and shall be jointly and severally subject to a penalty of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each day that a violation exists. If a violation occurs, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that all owners of the property allowed the violation.



Legend

— Contract Right-of-Way (green strip) Mowing Extents

— Right-of-Way (green strip) Maintained by Chevy Chase Club

Contract Right-of-Way (green strip) Mowing Extents

0 230 460 920 1,380 Feet



Compiled by: M. Youngs 10/01/2012
Source: Chevy Chase Village

Attachment 2

Copy of resident feedback request article

Village Board Considers Potential Elimination of Right-of-Way Mowing: Resident Feedback Requested

Currently, the Village mows the grass between the sidewalk and the street throughout the Village. Sixty-six percent of the homes in Chevy Chase Village front on a sidewalk and are the beneficiaries of this service. In those parts of the Village where there is no sidewalk, residents are responsible for maintaining the area in front of their homes up to the street curb. The Village Board is currently considering **eliminating the mowing of the grass between the sidewalk and the roadway curb.**

Background

The Village Board is continually looking for ways to control expenses while preserving core resident services and government operations. Over the years a recurring suggestion is one that would eliminate the mowing services for the grass between the sidewalk and street curb. The Village is the only local community that provides this service, which represents an **annual cost of approximately \$18,000.**

What this change could mean for residents

Elimination of right-of-way mowing means that those households that have a sidewalk abutting their property would be now be responsible for the mowing the area located between the curb and sidewalk as is now the case for households which do not abut a sidewalk. Many residents or their contractors already mow this area for consistency with their private lawn; others rely on the service provided by the Village.

At the Board's regular meeting in October, staff reintroduced the possible elimination of right-of-way mowing. A detailed staff report, including a map of the homes that would be affected by this change, is available on the Village website under "Important Topics".

Resident Feedback Requested

Residents are asked to provide feedback to the Board of Managers on the proposed elimination of this service. **The Board wants to know if residents value this service and want it to continue OR if this is an area that is not a critical service element and can be eliminated at an annual cost savings of approximately \$18,000.** The Board will hold a public hearing to consider the community's comments at its regular meeting on January 14, 2013. Residents may submit comments for the Board's consideration by emailing the Village office at ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Attachment 3

Resident feedback e-mails received

Comments In Favor of Elimination

Younes, Michael

From: Lawrence Heilman [lcheilman@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, December 07, 2012 4:57 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Mowing sidewalk grass

I'm all for eliminating that expense--I've been mowing those strips (and I'm on a corner) for 35 years even when the Village has done it, as I've always wanted everything to be done on the same day. Anne Heilman

Younes, Michael

From: Robert Broeksmit [rbroeksmit@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 09, 2012 11:22 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Right-of-Way Mowing

I've long been puzzled by the Village's practice of mowing the right-of-way in front of our house. We always mow it when we mow the rest of our yard, and it seems wasteful (tax dollars, noise and air pollution, energy, etc.) to duplicate homeowners' efforts. This would seem to be an easy and painless way to save \$18,000, and I heartily endorse it.

Robert Broeksmit
107 Primrose Street

Younes, Michael

From: Bill Ford [bford@granthamllc.com]
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2012 10:03 AM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Right of Way Mowing

To the Village Board,

I would be in favor of eliminating the mowing in the village right-of-way.

Regards,

Bill Ford
106 Summerfield Road

Younes, Michael

From: Seymour Auerbach [syauer@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2012 4:46 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: GRASS

MY WORD, OF COURSE WE SHOULD ALL CUT THE GRASS AT THE TREE SPACE !

THAT'S SUCH A SMALL AMOUNT OF WORK AND I WOULD BET THAT MOST OF OUR RESIDENTS HAVE LANDSCAPE COMPANIES DOING IT ANYWAY.

BEST TO PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE: COMPARE IT WITH LOSING THE "REAR-OF- HOUSE" TRASH PICK UP !

SHOULD WE LOSE THAT IT WOULD MAKE OUR BEAUTIFUL NEIGHBORHOOD'S CURB AREAS PACKED WITH TRASH CANS AND RECYCLING1

NAH, NAH, WE'LL CUT OUR LITTLE STRIPS OF GRASS ! ! !

SY AUERBACH 115 HESKETH

Younes, Michael

From: gina campbell [ginagcampbell@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 7:26 AM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: right-of-way mowing

Dear friends at the Village office,

Thanks for the invitation to respond to the issue of mowing in the right of way. I have not favored this service offered by the village for years. Every year, we call and ask that the right of way in front of our house not be mowed (it's a wide swath of grass on East Kirke Street) and we have often waved the mowers off when we're home and see them.

Here's my reasoning -- we pay to have that grass seeded and fertilized, along with the rest of our lawn. When the big industrial mowers they use some through, they always wind up scalping some portion of that lawn down to the bare earth. And the trimming they do around the trees and the telephone poles leave large round circles of bare earth. It's particularly bad on that little island of grass that sits at the corner of Brookville and East Kirke. Most of what lies under the thin layer of grass is stone -- I think there must be the remnants of a stone fence there -- and so the root system of the grass is very shallow. They just butcher it with the large, heavy mowers. We also do all the leaf removal in this patch of grass. It has always mystified me that the village tends to it in the summer, but all through the winter, as the oaks keep shedding, the village never touches the leaves. Seems inconsistent care to me. We're happy to continue to rake the leaves in the right-of-way. The village also doesn't come around and pick up all the limbs that fall from the village trees -- and we have a particularly challenging one that the village finally did a good trim job on this fall. But it has continually shed rather large limbs, which have been ours to remove. And we are fine doing that. The point to me is inconsistent policy towards the care of the right-of-way.

We understand that this is right of way beyond the sidewalk. But because it is so wide on our street, it looks like our yard. And it frequently gets mowed twice in one week, because we mow it ourselves, as it would look ridiculous to treat it differently than the front yard. And unless I am wrong, with the exception of one neighbor on this block -- who maintains his own yard and treats the right of way as we do -- every other neighbor has a yard service and they care for the right of way as well.

So, please know that Arch and I favor the village saving the money. We are happy to continue caring for that part of the yard. Thanks for asking!

Gina Campbell

--

Gina Gilland Campbell
11 East Kirke Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
202-297-1969
ginagcampbell@gmail.com

Younes, Michael

From: Dr Andrew Umhau [aumhau@foxhallinternists.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 3:27 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: resident feedback: right of way mowing

Board of Managers:

I live at 2 East Kirke St. I am probably one of the few residents who still mows his own yard.

I'm concerned that the elimination of right of way mowing will substantially increase the amount of grass I'm responsible for, probably double the time required for my front yard due especially to the requirements to mow on the Connecticut Ave. side of my corner property. I will acknowledge that I sometimes have cut the right of way directly in front of my home on East Kirke. This occurs when the contractors have not been by for awhile, and while more time consuming, is reasonable.

I would point out that the noise regulations with regard to power equipment—also reasonable except when compared to the noise in my yard emanating from traffic on Connecticut Ave—effectively prevents me from cutting grass except on Saturday or Sunday since I do not get home from work in time to do the yard work when I'm allowed to operate my power equipment (which happens to be electric). There goes more of the weekend!

Maybe a compromise to not eliminate mowing along Connecticut Ave, Western, or Brookville would be appropriate.

Thank you.

Andrew Umhau

Younes, Michael

From: Carole Babb [carole@grouptourcompany.com]
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 11:32 AM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Right of Way Moving

We support eliminating the moving of the grass between the sidewalk and the roadway curb by the Village.

Carole Babb
William Babb
133 Grafton Street
Chevy Chase MD
301/986-1248

Younes, Michael

From: Hertling, Richard [richard.hertling@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 4:17 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Right-of-way mowing

From our perspective, the right-of-way is unnecessary. The grass in our right-of-way strip barely grows, but when it does it is an extra 60 seconds for me to mow it. The Village has more pressing needs to which it could put the \$18,000 annually.

Hertling/Webb
119 Hesketh St.

Younes, Michael

From: Joan Churchill [churchil@erols.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 29, 2012 1:00 AM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Mowing

I don't think the Village has been mowing the right of way between our sidewalk and the curb in front of our house on Western Avenue, which are in the District, so we are not directly affected.

Since most people mow the right of way themselves, the eliminating the expense sounds like a sensible idea.

Joan Churchill, 5612 Western

Younes, Michael

From: judithrovner@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 2:40 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Elimination of Right-of way mowing

Since we have our own lawn service mow the right-of-way grass having that service eliminated would not negatively affect us.

Judy and Bob Rovner
31 West Irving Street

Younes, Michael

From: t514613@gmail.com on behalf of Tim Slagle [tim@slagle.org]
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 4:23 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Mowing the right-of-way

Just a quick email to say that I am a Village resident who supports ending the Village's right-of-way mowing service for houses with sidewalks. It would be interesting to know the fraction of Village households that currently use the service - the article I saw didn't have a number.

--Tim Slagle, 5500 Kirkside Drive

Younes, Michael

From: Joan Edwards [jse1952@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 4:06 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Mowing in right if way

I have always thought it was a waste of money. I'm all for stopping the service. Joan Edwards
109 primrose st

Sent from my iPad

Younes, Michael

From: Martha Hogan [marthamd@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 8:12 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: mowing

As residents of Grove St, my husband and I vote to stop the mowing of the areas between the street and the sidewalk. Martha and Tom Hogan

Younes, Michael

From: Julia [julia219@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 8:41 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Mowing right of way

Dear Chevy Chase Village,

We agree that the right-of-way mowing services should be eliminated to save the Village a significant amount of money.

Thank you,

-Julia and David Lee

5505 Center St

Younes, Michael

From: Beverly Nadel [beverly.nadel@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 2:26 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Cc: Mark Nadel
Subject: right of way mowing

Hello,

We do not think that the right of way mowing is a critical service element and are in favor of eliminating it and saving the money.

Beverly and Mark Nadel

Beverly C. Nadel
Evers & Company Real Estate, Inc.
4400 Jenifer St., NW
Washington, DC 20015
Phone (202) 364-1700
Fax (202) 537-0160
Cell (202) 236-7313
beverly.nadel@verizon.net
<http://www.eversco.com>

Younes, Michael

From: Ann Peck [annpeck1@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 8:49 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: right of way mowing

we are in favor of having homeowners mow their right of way rather than the village. many thanks, ann peck

ann peck
106 grafton street
chevy chase, md 20815
301 654-8472

Younes, Michael

From: Margaret Hutton Griffin [mhgriffin@mac.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 11:30 AM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Elimination of right-of-way mowing

Dear Chevy Chase Village Board of Directors:

As residents of 26 West Irving, we'd like to see the right-of-way mowing and its related expense eliminated from the budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this budget item. We welcome the opportunity to review other budget items.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret and Carter Griffin
26 West Irving St.

Younes, Michael

From: diana.mys@verizon.net
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 1:54 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Mowing

Eliminate right-of-way mowing. Diana Mysliwiec, 32 Quincy St.
Sent from my Verizon Wireless Phone

Younes, Michael

From: Nina Bang-Jensen [nbangjensen@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 6:55 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Support the elimination of mowing between the sidewalk and the curb

Dear Board Members,

We would be happy to mow the grass in front of our house between the sidewalk and curb in order to save the Village money. Similarly, perhaps the Village might consider having the lawn care contractor mow less frequently in the parks in general and stop the "edging" of the park lawns at all or certainly far less frequently. It seems unnecessary and makes a lot of noise, wastes gas and pollutes. Since there was so little rain this past summer, it may have been an unusually slow-growing year for grass, but it would be worth a try to see if the frequency of the mowings could be cut in half.

Thanks for your thoughtful idea.

Sincerely,
Nina Bang-Jensen
4029 Oliver Street

Sent from my iPad

Younes, Michael

From: May Day Taylor [maydaytaylor@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 9:44 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Re: Posts from Chevy Chase Village News for 01/04/2013

I am in favor of eliminating the mowing in the parking strips.
They usually come the day after I've mowed the grass.
I'm sure the money could be more wisely spent on other needs.
May Day Taylor
maydaytaylor@verizon.net

On Jan 4, 2013, at 4:01 PM, Chevy Chase Village wrote:

Is this email not displaying correctly?
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From the Village Hall

Published 01/04/2013

- [Christmas Tree Disposal](#)
- [Village Board Considers Potential Elimination of Right-of-Way](#)
- [Mowing: Resident Feedback Requested](#)
- [Chevy Chase Village is Looking for Community Event Volunteers](#)

Christmas Tree Disposal

Comments Against Elimination

Younes, Michael

From: feldmangs@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, December 15, 2012 12:48 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Cc: feldmangs@aol.com
Subject: Right-of-way mowing

I believe that the negative impact of discontinuing this service would far outweigh the \$18 thousand savings.

It seems to me that if we are willing to commit millions of dollars to replace sidewalks Village-wide, with aesthetic as well as safety benefits, it is counter-productive to pinch pennies on right-of-way mowing. Although many residents (myself included) have our lawn services mow the right-of-way when needed, and many residents would do the mowing themselves on a regular basis, some would not. There would be some strips of the right-of-way which will not be mowed regularly, dandelions and other weeds would take up residence, and the overall appearance of Village streets would be negatively affected.

Penny-wise and pound-foolish, I think.....

Gail

Younes, Michael

From: Bean Granger [beangra@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2012 10:08 AM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Mowing of right-of-way

We are in favor of continuing the mowing of the tight-of-way here in Chevy Chase Village.
David and Bean Granger
8 Primrose Street

Younes, Michael

From: Herbert Geller [gellerhm@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2012 12:13 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Right-of-Way Mowing
Attachments: 5617 Grove.pdf

To the Board of Managers,

I strongly request that the Board vote to continue right-of-way mowing, at least for properties like ours that present significant obstacles to mowing the treelawn by those who do their own lawn maintenance.

As you can see from the attached image from Google street view, our house at 5617 Grove St. is significantly above grade from street level. Our lawn is at the level of the house, not the street, I mow our lawn and our lawnmower is stored in the garage which opens onto the alley, not Grove St.. In order for me to mow the tree lawn, because our house is in the middle of the block, I would have to walk the lawnmower entirely around the block, a major nuisance. If the Village stopped mowing, I would look to replacing the grass with something that would not require maintenance, which would alter the uniformity and visual appearance of the street.

For these reasons, I strongly urge retaining right-of-way mowing.

Herbert M. Geller
5617 Grove St.



Younes, Michael

From: Braverman, Burt [BurtBraverman@dwt.com]
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 8:51 AM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Right-of-way Mowing

We are opposed to discontinuation of Village mowing of the rights-of-way between sidewalks and streets in the Village.

The "rights-of-way" spaces are either owned or controlled by the Village, and are used for the benefit of the entire community, not just the residents whose property they abut:

- The Village does not allow homeowners to make any significant use of such spaces, e.g., by planting trees or placing structures or objects in such spaces.
- The Village plants trees in such spaces, and controls the selection, care and maintenance of such trees.
- Such spaces are used for the benefit of other Village residents, not just the homeowners whose homes they abut, e.g., for the placement of sidewalks, and by other residents who walk their dogs (and, unfortunately too often, do not pick up their dogs' excrement).
- Such spaces add to the common ambiance of the entire community, not just the homeowners whose property is adjacent to such spaces.

Further, if the Village did not continue to cut the grass, there is a likelihood that some homeowners might be derelict in cutting the grass on an adequately frequent and regular basis, leading to unsightly and unkempt areas in the Village, which would detract from the overall ambiance of the Village.

The Village currently cuts the grass in other commonly used areas (park, Wohlfarth property, etc.) for the benefit of all residents, even though only a relatively few Village residents abut, live immediately across from or use such properties. The Village should not cease cutting the grass in the rights-of-way spaces if it is going to continue to maintain these other public spaces.

Ceasing cutting the grass in rights-of-way spaces would unfairly place the cost of such grass cutting on the backs of people abutting such spaces when such spaces in fact are used and enjoyed by the entire community.

As an aside, the suggestion of discontinuing cutting grass in the rights-of-way spaces seems particularly unjustifiable given the Village's prior decision to commit substantial Village resources to acquisition of the Wohlfarth property, an action that benefits only a small portion of the Village yet burdens a majority of Village residents, who do not live adjacent to, and who will not make use of, that property if and when it is developed into a park by the Village and County.

Burt Braverman
Kathleen Meredith
2 Magnolia Parkway
Chevy Chase, Md. 20815
301 654 4274

Younes, Michael

From: Kerry Crist [kerry.crist@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 4:54 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Right of way mowing

To whom it may concern:

I moved into 5808 Connecticut Ave in spring 2010. Although I was told that the area in front of my house was village property and maintained by the village, the grass was not mowed for months and it looked terrible. My neighbors finally told me that if the area was going to look decent I would need to mow it, because the village contractor rarely mows. [This spring/summer the contractor mowed no more than 2 times, which clearly isn't enough.]

So, I would recommend either having the village contractor seriously maintain the area -- which would include frequent mowing in warm months -- or just to stop paying for the service completely. Other village residents may benefit from the service, but is useless to me.

Thank you for your time.

Kerry Crist

Younes, Michael

From: Susan [nasus38@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 2:23 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Subject: Re: Maintance

The village must keep the right of way mowing 18,000 should not stand in the way. You did spend 7,000 for the holiday party, and not everyone went The character of our neighborhood needs to remain intact whether or not we use our own lawn services...mulching,etc in right of ways!

Sent from my iPad

Younes, Michael

From: Alice Gmail Acct [afg.breed@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 3:15 PM
To: Village, Chevy Chase
Cc: Breed alice; Breed Jharry
Subject: Elimination of Mowing

In your well-meant deliberations to save costs by eliminating Village mowing of areas between street curbs and the adjacent sidewalk, please recognize that some homeowners will find this an expensive cost increase, depending on their lot's configuration.

We live at 2 East Newlands St on the "eyebrow" semi-circle entrance road abutting the large park area and adjacent to CT Ave. CCV currently maintains the park area, and at the same time cuts the grass on our side of Newlands up to the sidewalk. This pie-shaped area is some 240 x 15 feet in dimension (3600 square feet) which is about half-again the size of the lawn area we have always mowed.

So our weekly mowing charges will go up at least 50% or approximately \$20. Given a March-October mowing season, this would mean about \$ 640 per season extra cost to us. Since Alice and I are now both retired, this extra cost will be a surprise and burden.

Please keep in mind that CCV will still be maintaining the immediately-adjacent Newlands Park so there should be minimal added cost for the crew to mow the street-side area in front of our walk as it historically has done. Also, I believe that CCV will continue to mow the wide strip running from E Melrose St to Newlands Street between Ct Ave and the fence along No 1 East Melrose St.

We appreciate all sensible measures to increase CCV efficiency, but respectfully request that CCV continue to provide mowing services to our property for the reasons stated above. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. Jharry and Alice Breed

Sent from my iPad
Sooooooooo excuse the pad Typing
Alice F.G. B. =^.=
703-969-3069,
Jharry Breed
703 405 1896